

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06529 120545Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 L-03 /063 W
-----084671 121520Z /47

R 120503Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3252
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T JIDDA 6529

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, US, EG, SA
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN F-5 PROGRAM

REF: A. STATE 226101 B. CAIRO 12819

1. POL COUNSELOR GAVE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ABD AL-RAHMAN MANSOURI ITEMIZED BREAKDOWN ON SEPTEMBER 10 OF COSTS FOR EGYPTIAN F-5 PROGRAM, AS WELL AS THE PROPOSED PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR THE PROGRAM. MANSOURI GLANCED AT THE COST BREAKDOWN. HE LOWERED HIS VOICE IN THE FASHION THAT SAUDIS DO WHEN THEY ARE SERIOUS OR ANGRY AND SAID WITH SOME HEAT THAT WE HAD MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR SAUDI ARABIA TO HELP EGYPT. HE THEN RELAXED AND SAID THAT SAG HAD NOT YET MADE A FIRM DECISION TO FINANCE THE EGYPTIAN PROGRAM. THE COSTS WERE MUCH GREATER THAN SAG HAD ANTICIPATED. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SAG WOULD GIVE EGYPT THAT MUCH.

2. POL COUNSELOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TOTAL COST WAS GREATER THAN ORIGINAL ESTIMATES AND THAT THE INCREASE WAS CAUSED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FIRST MAJOR U.S. WEAPON SYSTEM INTO EGYPT AND THE ABSOLUTE
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NECESSITY TO ASSURE EFFECTIVE AND ENDURING OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM.

3. MANSOURI SAID THAT SAG WOULD STUDY THE INFORMATION WE HAD GIVEN HIM AND THAT HE WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH US.

4. COMMENT: AS EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTER POINTED OUT TO AMBASSADOR EILTS (REF B), GOE HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION FROM EARLY DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. THAT COST WOULD BE AROUND \$400 MILLION AND HAD SO INDICATED TO SAG. THEN IN MAY, FIGURE ROSE TO \$595 MILLION AND NO DOUBT GOE COMMUNICATED THIS FIGURE TO SAG. NOW WE WONDER AT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE INCREASE AND RECALL OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE JORDAN MISSILE PROGRAM. AN INCREASE OF 85 PERCENT OVER ORIGINAL ESTIMATES SEEMS LARGE. IS THERE A CHANCE THAT AN ERROR HAS BEEN MADE? IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF CUTTING DOWN THE COST OF THE PACKAGE? WEST

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA06529
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780370-0827
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780978/aaaacmbu.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dbe05b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 226101
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1471584
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN F-5 PROGRAM
TAGS: MASS, US, EG, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dbe05b52-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014